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Jackson councilmember responds to parking concerns

Will Forgrave

By KATHRYN PALON
Contributing Writer

Parking laws in Downtown Jackson changed beginning Dec. 1 and there has been flurry of negative comments and confusion.

In an attempt to clarify things, Jackson City Councilman Will Forgrave put the following information on his Facebook page.

"First, let's talk about where we were prior to Dec. 1. We have had for decades a two-hour parking maximum enforced from 8-5 Monday through Friday. We had assessed downtown businesses annually. We had charged a permit fee for nearly a dozen public lots downtown. After 3:01 p.m. and before 9:59 a.m. Monday through Friday and all weekend those lots and street parking had no time limit and anyone could park there.

"Next, let's talk about the changes. We've kept the two-hour parking maximum and changed the enforcement times from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. We don't allow people to move spots every two hours to avoid a ticket, but do now offer a day pass for $10, which would allow for street parking all day. We still assess downtown businesses annually. We still charge a monthly and annual permit fee for nearly a dozen lots downtown. After 4:01 p.m. and before 9:59 a.m. Monday through Saturday and all day Sunday those lots and street parking have no time limit and anyone can park there.

"Here's why we changed things:

"The current permit fees, assessments, and tickets didn't accrue enough revenue to pay for the system. The parking system includes annual snowplowing, parking lot maintenance, sidewalk snow removal, and more. Which meant that year after year, we were dipping into and removing money from our general fund to pay for these things - general fund revenue that is typically set aside for police officers and equipment, firefighters and equipment, public safety, city employees, and more.

"People were taking advantage of street parking. Mainly, downtown business owners and employees used street parking and moved their cars every two hours to avoid tickets without getting a permit. Also, downtown residents who work outside downtown were able to park on the street overnight and over the weekend without getting a permit. Because of these two types of users, we changed the two-hour rule to be in effect for all the district and we expanded enforcement to Saturdays.

"Initially, as some may remember, we voted to install meters – which would have allowed for the possibility of free parking for a time (proposed as 30 minutes but that could – and I would argue should have – been expanded to an hour or two) and businesses and residents were incensed. So, we backed off, but we still had the revenue problem, and we needed a change.

"Here's how we came to a compromise that will fund the system. For years, the $7 ticket was the lowest in the state. People were using the ticket as a parking fee, and occupying prime customer spots all day. To put a finer point on it: Street parking should be for downtown visitors and business patrons alone.

"Street parking is not for downtown employees, it's not for downtown business owners, and it's not for downtown residents – it's for visitors. If a business does not provide private parking for their patrons and their employees or if an apartment complex does not provide private parking for their residents there are downtown public lots – and even some downtown private lots – available to get a permit.

"For employees whose business owners won't get them a parking permit, the city created a free public parking lot for downtown business employees on the corner of MLK and Cortland – it has been there since 2022. For businesses willing to work with the city, we can and have come to terms on permit plans for their specific needs."

Forgrave ended his post saying, "I understand, change is hard, but for all intents and purposes, for the vast, vast majority of downtown visitors and patrons, this change won't affect how they operate and have operated. For the people currently abusing the system, it will have negative effects.

One Facebook user asked, "What if I'm down there from 8-9 and then come back from 3-4? That's 2 hours total so it should be free. How do they keep track of people who leave and come back like that?"

Forgrave responded "We keep track by having plate scanners on patrol cars. Since we don't have meters to mark the exact moment you park downtown and since the patrol cars can't be in a hundred places at once, what the two-hour time limit is for is for tracking the individuals who abuse the system and avoid getting permits but stay all day downtown."

He replied to another comment: "After we roll out these changes we can always change things and tinker with the plan. Maybe it means less assessments on businesses, maybe it means lower fines or permit fees, maybe it means changing the hours, but what we have isn't working and we need to change - it's a matter of finding out what's best and continuing to adapt as necessary."

Poleski reports on jury duty and jail funding

By KEN WYATT
Contributing Writer

JacksonCounty Commissioner Earl Poleski had two items for his monthly report on county news of interest to the townships in his area.

There has been some improvement in the percentage of citizens showing up for jury duty. Poleski said in the past year about 2,000 citizens were summoned for jury duty; of those, 500 did not show up. That's about 25 percent. In past years, the percentage of no-shows has been as high as 30 to 40 percent. The no-shows are subject to costly fines. In fact, the county has realized about $15,000 from fines.

Tax revenues have been better than expected for the county. So the decision has been made to add $3 million to the building improvement fund. Of that, $1 million will go to upkeep and maintenance of the county's 70-year-old jail.

Poleski said the funds are not meant for a replacement of the old jail. Taxpayers have rebuffed repeated millage requests for that purpose.

These funds would merely go to the expense of continuing to operate the jail, which is essential. Normally, the county seeks to maintain a surplus of 18 to 24 percent of the general fund. This shift from the surplus will leave the county with about a 22 percent cushion.

Concord, Parma and Pulaski to partner on early voting

By KEN WYATT
Contributing Writer

Since the 2024 presidential election, Michigan voters have been allowed to cast their votes early. From a state website: "The early voting period takes place for a minimum of nine consecutive days, ending on the Sunday before an election. Communities may decide to provide additional days of early voting, up to 28 days total."

Jackson County did staff those elections, but has decided against continuing to do it. Now each township must decide whether to handle the early voting with its own staff or partner with other townships to do so.

Concord Township Clerk Terri Butts presented the board with a 12-page, three-township contract for approval of a partnership for early voting at their meeting earlier this week. After discussion, it was approved.

Concord, Pulaski and Parma clerks have agreed in principle to join forces for early voting. That spares each township from having to hire people to staff nine early-voting days each separately. Instead, the three townships will each pay a third of the expenses of the system. The estimates are that early voting will cost about $16,000, but that does not include some expenses yet to be determined.

Concord will host the early voting. The contract, however, must be approved by all three of the townships.

SAPS presentation highlights local leadership; lifesaving prevention work

By MAGGIE LANOUE
Contributing Writer

Substance Abuse Prevention Services delivered an uplifting and personal presentation at the Dec. 1 Albion City Council meeting, offering a clear look at how youth leadership and prevention programs are growing in Albion and across Calhoun County. SAPS Assistant Director and Certified Prevention Specialist Maurice Barry began by noting that SAPS is part of a countywide coalition recently honored at the Michigan State Capitol. He told the council that founder Dr. Harry J. Bonner Sr. has dedicated more than 40 years to youth and families in Albion, and that the coalition's recognition reflects the long-term influence of prevention work that began locally and now reaches across the county.

Barry described how SAPS is using Michigan's opioid settlement dollars. SAPS received $91,000 in the first year and $82,000 in the second year, and Barry said the funding is already making a difference. He explained that he distributes Narcan at Family Fare on the first Saturday of every month and that the 24-hour Narcan vending machine on Austin Avenue has already been responsible for several critical overdose reversals late at night. Barry also acknowledged Councilmembers Lenn Reid and Vivian Davis for their involvement in SAPS activities and their steady support of the organization's work.

Marquetta Frost spoke next. "I've been with Dr. Bonner ever since I was in fifth grade, and I've stayed with SAPS ever since," she said, noting that his steady guidance shaped her early years and kept her connected to the organization as an adult. Frost now mentors teens through SAPS' CAMP cross-age mentoring program at Marshall Opportunity High School, Marshall Academy, and Homer High School. Beginning in October, high school mentors receive weekly training before working with younger students, and after Christmas break, they will begin weekly visits with fifth graders at Harrington Elementary School throughout the spring.

"We go into the schools every week, and we help the students with leadership, homework, and talking about preventing substance abuse. We see them grow," said Frost. She added that she now helps guide a new generation of mentors. "I mentor the mentors, and then we take what we learn and work with the younger kids. It's important that they see someone who believes in them."

Photo by Albionmich.net

Calhoun County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, with members Dr. Harry Bonner and Art Kale, recently received recognition with a special tribute at the State Capitol building. From left: State Representative Steve Frisbie, County Commissioner Gary Tompkins, Dr. Harry Bonner, Calhoun County Board Chair Derek King, and Art Kale, Homer village manager.

Frost then introduced Thad, a second-year mentor who chose to continue volunteering after finishing school. He described the weekly visits and the simple conversations that often make the biggest difference. "We'd go over to Harrington Monday right after school till about 5:30… mostly just talk with the kids about preventing substance abuse." He added that the mentors also help younger students with homework and said, "In general, it's just a great experience all around."

Before concluding, Barry shared his own testimony about how SAPS and Dr. Bonner transformed his life. He told the council, "I was a single parent… been to prison, did a whole lot of bad stuff. Never thought I'd be standing in front of you guys talking about doing work in the community… but I am very proud and very honored to have walked alongside him and learned this profession." He added that Dr. Bonner "is instrumental in my transformation in this community."

The recognition presented at the State Capitol earlier this year honored a countywide prevention coalition that includes SAPS, showing how local efforts have grown into a broader network of partners working together across Calhoun County. While Dr. Bonner was not present at the Dec. 1 meeting, the evening's speakers, Frost and Thad, illustrated how his lifelong commitment continues forward. Their stories show how prevention work that began in Albion decades ago now contributes to leadership development and substance misuse prevention across the county.

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Online critics draw heated response from a Concord village official

By KEN WYATT
Contributing Writer

Tuesday's Concord Village Council meeting included a water rate hike, employee raises, passage of the 2026 village budget – each approved without debate and little discussion. But then there was the Facebook matter. That's when one could sense genuine heat.

Jason Blossom raised the issue during his Department of Public Works report. In recent days he and the DPW crew had been hard at work on two end-of-year projects – tree removal and snow removal.

Each of the DPW's projects has drawn online criticism. On tree removal, Blossom told the council, "I don't cut down perfectly good trees unless requested." That, in unfounded complaints that the village was cutting down such trees.

He went on to explain some of the factors warranting removal. "I look at the health of the tree," he explained. Is it near a sewer line, where roots might cause problems?

He went into some detail regarding complaints in Facebook, referring to encounters with residents opposed to removal. One who even tried to remove the village's marking for removal.

In some cases, the concern is that an unhealthy tree might topple onto a nearby house. That can result in liability of the village.

"People go on Facebook rather than go to us to get an explanation," Blossom said.

Then there was the matter of sidewalk snow removal in the downtown of the village. Tuesday morning's snowfall, which occurred between about 6:30 and 8 a.m., had a DPW crew busily removing snow from those sidewalks. Again, there were online complaints of village employees for simply doing their jobs.

"I want to ask the board," Blossom said at one point in obvious exasperation, "is it worth it for us to do [sidewalk snow removal]? I want the backing from the board if so," he added.

He wanted no piecemeal system either. "Either we're going to do it all, or none at all."

Blossom got no formal motion of support. But it seemed clear he had the council's backing. That became obvious at the end of the meeting when council members have opportunity to make closing comments. Several affirmed the DPW's work, despite complaints.

And though the council did not link employee reviews to the online complaints, village president Jeremy Bush summarized the reviews, stating that the council is happy with employee performance. He offered a motion to give all the employees a 3 percent cost-of-living raise. A $2 per hour raise was also approved for one DPW employee to correct an inequity in pay levels.

In other actions by the council:

-To meet guidelines of the federal loan for Concord's recent water system upgrade, a $1 per-month increase was approved in village water rates.

-The village budget was also approved with a couple of changes from the budget as presented at a special council meeting on Nov. 25. The village president prepares a budget analysis annually. The Recorder will report on that when it is available.

-During public comment, Becky Raut, owner of Trail Head Coffee Shop, reported on her assessment of last weekend's first village Christmas parade. For a first time, she said it went well. She would like to do better preparation next year – getting the word out and possibly having trees along Main Street lighted up.

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Obituaries

KENNETH ROBERT VOGT, age 84, of Albion, Michigan, passed away at home on Dec. 7, 2025, after several years of declining health.

Ken was born on Oct. 26, 1941, in Jackson, Michigan, the son of Kenneth W. and Ida Mae (Gillett) Vogt who have preceded him in death. Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by an infant sister.

Ken graduated from Springport High School in 1960 and attended the Agricultural Short Course at Michigan State University. On Sept. 8, 1962, Ken married Peggy Sawchuk. Together they farmed and raised their two sons, Dennis and Christopher, on the family farm that Ken resided on his entire life. He was a proud father, and as their family grew to include Dennis' girlfriend, Shelly Root, and Christopher's wife, Sarah, he was an even prouder grandfather to his grandson, Shawn. Ken could be found in the stands supporting Shawn in football and basketball.

Ken worked at Albion Elevator Company for 10 years, then managed the grain elevator in Homer for 3 years before transferring to The Andersons in Albion for 12 years until his retirement. In addition, he helped on the family dairy farm and planted corn, hay, wheat and soybeans. After his father's retirement, he took over the farm duties full-time. In his free time, Ken enjoyed playing Euchre in Springport for many years and Bingo in Albion. He was a member of bowling leagues in Jackson and Albion for a few years. His favorite pastime was cruising around the neighborhood on his Kubota.

Ken devoted his life to his family, farm, and community. He served approximately 40 years as a trustee on the Sheridan Township Board and during part of that time, served as a member and president of the Fire Board. He was also a member of the Michigan Guernsey Breeder's Association and over the years held every office on the Board of Directors. In his early years he was a member of the Westside Hi-Steppers 4-H Club and received many honors as he showed dairy cattle at the Jackson County Fair, Michigan State Fair in Detroit, and National Dairy Show in Waterloo, Iowa. He continued his interest in 4-H as an adult and was an administrative leader and leader of the dairy and gun safety projects. Ken was a recipient of the Farmer of the Year Award presented by the Albion Jaycees.

A memorial gathering honoring Ken's life will be held from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025, at Vickers Springport Funeral Home located at 121 Pearl St., in Springport, Michigan. Following the gathering, a time for sharing love, laughter, and tears will be provided during a luncheon at Sheridan Township Hall located at 13355 29 Mile Road in Albion, Michigan.

Memorial contributions can be sent to the Sheridan Township Firefighters Association, 13355 29 Mile Road, Albion MI 49224 or the Westside Hi-Steppers 4-H Club, c/o Kate Mauntel, 18611 28 Mile Road, Albion MI 49224.

Arrangements entrusted to Vickers Springport Funeral Home, PO Box 235, Springport, MI 49284. 517-857-4848.

MATTHEW CARMI SPEARS, 85, of Albion, passed away on Dec. 4, 2025, at the Henry Ford Hospice House in Jackson, Michigan.

He was born Feb. 8, 1940, to Clarence and Mary Katherine (Ozanich) Spears in Lansing, Michigan. Matt first met MaryLou Shaw in the third grade, when he came to Albion and started school. Their first interaction they remember was when MaryLou was acting as playground monitor, scolded Matt for swinging too high on the swings. They started dating in 1958 and got married in Albion at the Episcopal church on Sept. 30, 1961. They would have celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary this year. MaryLou unexpectedly passed away on May 11, 2025, and Matt missed her terribly.

Matt owned his own barbershop in Albion before learning the dry cleaning business and managing a few Martinizing Dry Cleaners in Lansing. In 1973, he then opened his own dry cleaners in Albion with MaryLou, appropriately named Spears Cleaner World. Matt later bought and renovated the old Rusty Hinge bar and opened Superior Street Station downtown Albion. It was a family friendly bar that served the best bar burger and MaryLou's chili. After selling the bar, Matt opened another dry cleaners in Coldwater. After the Coldwater store was sold, Matt suffered a brain aneurism and underwent brain surgery to clip off the problem. After recovery, Matt and MaryLou decided to slow down, so they sold the Albion dry cleaners. Matt, not one to be idle, renovated another building in Albion and put in a one chair barbershop, Top Knotch Barbershop. They then started to make monthly trips up north during the summer months. Matt worked at his barbershop until Saturday, Nov. 8, 2025.

If you knew Matt, you knew of Engadine. His grandparents had come to America from Croatia, and he was so proud of his heritage. He lived in Engadine before his family moved to Albion. It was always a special place where he loved to go and take his family and friends. The guys he took deer hunting and sucker fishing there made many memories and trips to the Pine Bar. At a young age, he taught himself to play the accordion and later, when the polka bands he played with needed a banjo player, he taught himself to play that with some help from a friend. Matt always had a twinkle in his eye and you never knew what he was up to. He was a prankster who had a new joke for you whenever he saw you.

Matt is survived by his

daughter and son-in-law, Catherine Mary and Scott Gindlesberger and Papa's best friend Joshua Gindlesberger. His brother-in-law, Dennis Shaw, and cousins and nieces and nephews.

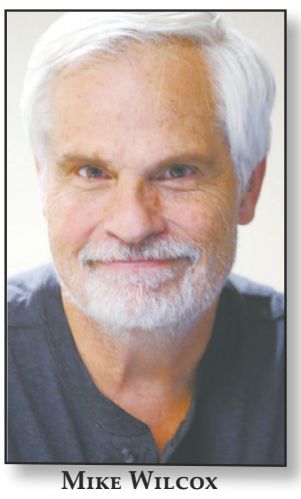
He was preceded in death by his mother, his wife MaryLou, and a grandson, Jacob Gindlesberger.

Visitation will be on Saturday, Dec. 20, 2025, from 9-11 a.m., with a Memorial Service starting at 11 a.m. at Kempf Family Funeral & Cremation Services, Marshall, Michigan.

Those wishing to make a memorial contribution in memory of Matt may do so to the Henry Ford Hospice Home-Jackson or to a charity of one's choice. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kempf Family Funeral and Cremation Services. Please visit https://www.kempffuneralhome.com to view the online obituary, to sign the online guestbook, to share memories and pictures with the family.

Mike's Musings

Opinion: Road Rage Is Killing Us — Literally



Mike Wilcox
Publisher

I've written about road rage before, but nothing prepared me for the horrifying incident that unfolded in our Morning Star/Recorder area over the holiday weekend. It was, without question, one of the most senseless and tragic episodes I've ever encountered — the kind of incident that forces every one of us to take a hard look at our own behavior behind the wheel.

A 22-year-old Concord man is dead. Not because of icy roads, or a mechanical failure, or a momentary lapse in attention — but because two drivers allowed anger to override judgment.

Michigan State Police detailed what happened:

On Nov. 28, around 6:07 p.m., troopers responded to a chaotic scene along M-60 and N. Main Street. Two vehicles — a Chevy Malibu driven by the young Concord man and a Jeep Cherokee driven by a 24-year-old Parma man — had engaged in a road-rage confrontation. Both drivers pulled onto the shoulder. Both got out. And then, disastrously, both began physically fighting in the roadway.

While they were brawling in the traffic lane, a westbound Ram 1500 came upon them. The 62-year-old Hanover man behind the wheel had no chance to avoid impact. Both men were struck. One died. The other survived with non-life-threatening injuries. Police say neither alcohol nor drugs played a role.

Witnesses disagree on what sparked the altercation — who cut off whom, who brake-checked, who shouted first. But here's the truth that matters: none of that changes the outcome. A young life is gone. A family is shattered. And for what? A moment's anger? Bruised pride? A refusal to let something go?

Accounts suggest that the Jeep, carrying a family returning from hunting, pulled onto M-60. The Chevy pulled out behind them. Tempers flared. Someone didn't like someone else's driving. Words — or gestures — were exchanged. Both drivers made the fatal decision to pull over near the old Jenks Oil Station and escalate the confrontation.

A fight broke out on the high ground near the Concord Mill Pond, eventually spilling onto the roadway. Seconds later, the Ram appeared — and tragedy followed.

A woman who arrived shortly afterward described consoling the distraught passenger of the Chevy. "I felt sorry for her," she said. "Hugged her. Told her it's okay." She watched as CPR was performed on the young man for 15 agonizing minutes. She will undoubtedly carry that image with her for the rest of her life. So will many others.

If anyone still believes road rage is some exaggerated talking point, this incident stands as undeniable proof of its deadly reality.

We must teach our teenagers — in driver's training and at home — that retaliating on the road is never acceptable. You don't settle disagreements with a stranger's driving. You don't pull over to "set someone straight." You don't follow, confront, threaten, or escalate. Ever.

All of us make mistakes behind the wheel. New drivers misjudge gaps or turns. Seniors may drive more slowly out of caution. Others may be anxious from past accidents. None of these deserve a horn-blaring tirade, a shouted insult, or a roadside fistfight.

We must do better. As motorists. As citizens. As human beings.

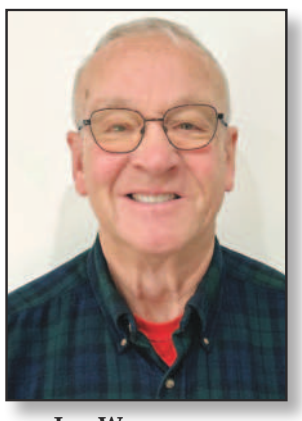
The next time irritation rises — when someone merges too slowly, brakes too quickly, or forgets a turn signal — choose restraint over rage. Let it go. Take a breath. Remember this young man, and remember that no moment of anger is worth a life.

One family will never see their son again because two people forgot that simple truth.

Let this be the last time we read a story like this.

Looking Out

Five Golden Rings



Jim Whitehouse
Guest Columnist

There's music playing from the speakers in the ceiling of the cafe. It is holiday music. Of course it is. It must be a felony to play anything but holiday music in public places after Thanksgiving.

"Five Golden Rings", sings out my coffee drinking friend Lyle Pratt, in tune with the sound system.

The perfectly blended voices of the chorus singing the tune have ground their way through all but one day, so I have heard Lyle chip in with Five Golden RingS 11 times with one more to go.

In my mind, once would have been enough. I should keep my mouth shut.

"Lyle, once with the gold rings would have been plenty," I say, choosing to open said mouth.

"Scrooge. Scrooge McDuck," he says.

"Quack, quack," I say in perfect tempo with the chorus's calling birds.

"Ha," says Lyle, unenthusiastically.

"I'm not really a Scrooge," I say. "There is a lot of holiday music I like. Take "Greensleeves," for example. People have been enjoying that melody since 1580, myself included.

"I had no idea you are that old," says Lyle. "And what does "Greensleeves" have to do with holiday music anyway?"

"The lovely song, 'What Child Is This?' That's what. The melody is 'Greensleeves,"' I say to proclaim my status as a nerd who knows stuff like that.

"That is a fine song," says Lyle. "Lots better than the Chipmunks singing 'Here Comes Santa Claus."'

"My beloved wife Marsha often sits down at her piano in the afternoon and evening and plays the holiday songs we've all heard all of our lives," I say. "I love that. And on the rare occasions she plays The Twelve Days, she's kind enough to play only one verse."

"Five Golden Rings," sings Lyle, not even close to being in sync with the PaRumPumPumPum the little drummer boy is now beating out over the sound system for the umpteenth time.

"O! Santa Claus, please bring me a new friend this year," I say.

"Scrooge," says Lyle.

"We went to a holiday concert by the Trans-Siberian Orchestra a few years ago," I say. "Terrific music. I particularly like their high-tech-high-energy version of 'Carol of the Bells,' but we didn't get to hear it that night."

"Really? They didn't play it?" asks Lyle.

"They probably did, but after the first two songs we had to leave the venue," I say.

"They kicked you out for being a Scrooge?" says Lyle.

"No. We left voluntarily to avoid going deaf or dying in a fire," I say.

"What?"

"That's a tired old joke," I say. "It was painfully loud and they kept shooting off flamethrowers to punctuate their very exciting music. We were sitting way too far from the emergency exit for comfort."

"Didn't you bring ear plugs and a fire extinguisher?" says Lyle. "Everyone I know has enough sense to do that for a Trans-Siberian Orchestra concert."

"We didn't know," I say. "We did heard part of one more song out in the parking lot, even after we closed the car doors."

Lyle tips his head back and I know what's coming, so I reach across the table and push on his Adam's apple. "ffff gld ings" is all that comes whispering out of his mouth. Thankfully.

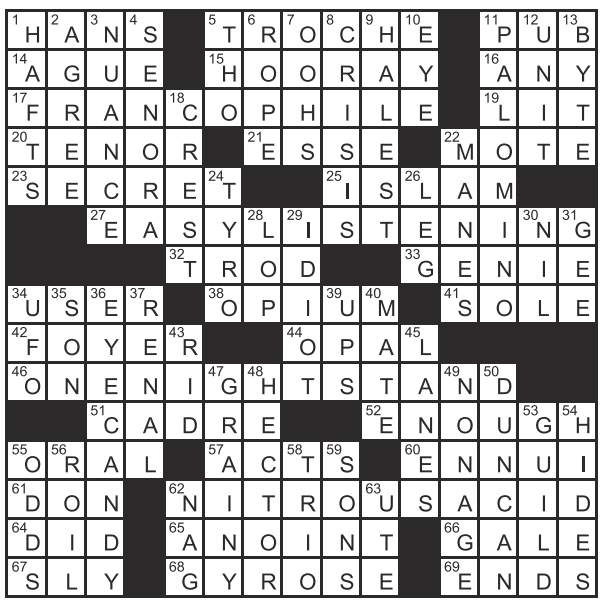
"Scrooge," he says after I remove my finger from his throat.

"Five Golden Rings!" I sing, not in tune nor in sync with Gene Autry whose voice is extolling the benefits of Rudolph's nose.

In my car on the way home I listen to "Angels We Have Heard On High" on the radio.

Now that's a song!

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE


1 H 2 A 3 N 4 S 5 T 6 R 7 O 8 C 9 H 10 E 11 P 12 U 13 B
14 A G U E 15 H O O R A Y 16 A N Y
17 F R A N 18 C O P H I L E 19 L I T
20 T E N O R 21 E S S E 22 M O T E
23 S E C R E 24 T 25 I S 26 L A M
27 E A S Y 28 L 29 I S T E N I 30 N 31 G
32 T R O D 33 G E N I E
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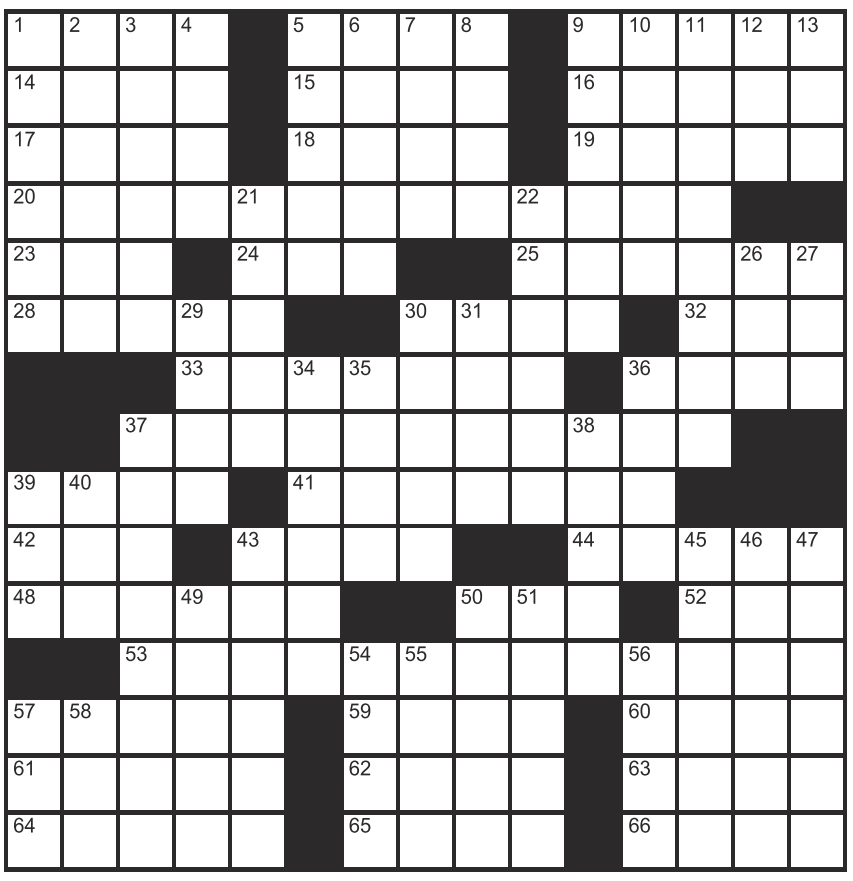
42 F O Y E 43 R 44 O P A 45 L
46 O N E N I 47 G 48 H T S T A 49 N 50 D
51 C A D R E 52 E N O U 53 G 54 H
55 O 56 R A L 57 A C 58 T 59 S 60 E N N U I
61 D O N 62 N I T R O 63 U S A C I D
64 D I D 65 A N O I N T 66 G A L E
67 S L Y 68 G Y R O S E 69 E N D S

CROSSWORD



CLUES

Across
1. Kiss
5. After-bath powder
9. Run out, as a subscription
14. "Beowulf," e.g.
15. Hip bones
16. Deck out
17. Cornstarch brand
18. Ticket info, maybe
19. Hackneyed
20. Root canal doctor (2 wds)
23. ___-tzu, Chinese philosopher
24. Favorite
25. Isaac ___, English physicist
28. Overthrow, e.g.
30. Call from the flock
32. "I ___ you one"
33. Danger for sailors
36. Buggy terrain
37. Laundry hamper with a liner (2 wds)
39. Get-up-and-go
41. Advice or guidance
42. Persian, e.g.
43. Pacific
44. Beauty pageant wear
48. Lover of Dido, in myth
50. Amniotic ___
52. Decay
53. ESE direction (2 wds)
57. Drudges
59. Final notice
60. Husk
61. Wolfgang ___, Nobel Prize physicist
62. Bit
63. Rattling sound made while breathing
64. Church recesses
65. Bad look
66. Eye affliction

Down
1. Parish officer
2. Rise up, as a horse on its hind legs
3. Milano Mr.
4. Sean Connery, for one
5. Deed
6. Creme de la creme (2 wds)
7. In ___ of
8. "The Alienist" author
9. Rigged with a triangular sail
10. Cupid's projectile
11. The output of a computer on paper
12. Convened
13. Artist's asset
21. Table part
22. Banded, metamorphic rock
26. Control
27. Formerly known as
29. Assortment
30. Vinyl collectible
31. Aim
34. Modify
35. Carbon compound
36. Kosher ___
37. Resembling wood
38. Two-masted, fore-and-aft-rigged sailing vessel
39. Car accessory
40. Morgue, for one
43. Blackcurrant cordial
45. Ancient debarkation point
46. Cheerfully
47. Potsdam Conference attendee
49. American symbol
50. Hotel offering
51. ___ of roses
54. Earth
55. "O" in old radio lingo
56. Hearing organs
57. Marienbad, for one
58. Drink from a dish

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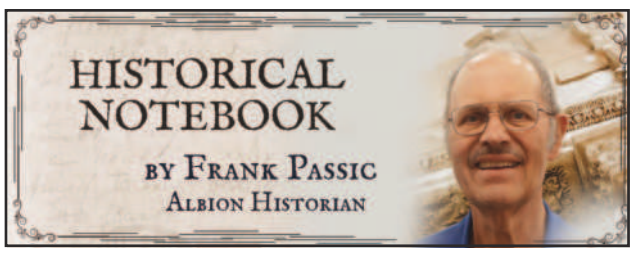


CONCORD HISTORY BOOK PUBLISHED

Occasionally in this column we'll feature a review of a newly published area history book of which our readers might be interested. "Up to Concord, A History of the First Universalist Church of Concord, Michigan" is currently being offered by the Hubbard Memorial Museum Foundation. This book was the result of many years of detailed research, personal stories, and interviews by the combined authors, the late John Kinney (1949-2015) and the late Dorothy Spry (1923-2008).

Both authors were well known in the Concord area for their keen interest in Concord history and activities. I knew both personally. John and I collaborated together on several historical projects through the years. I would frequently see Dorothy at the State of Michigan Library in Lansing where she spent much time researching Concord history and family genealogies. Following Dorothy's death in 2008, Nancy Barton assisted John in the initial organization of the manuscript, but in 2015, John, too, passed away. The task of editing and preparing the book for publication was then assigned to and accomplished by Rev. Carol (Haughey) Bodeau. It bears a publication date of February, 2024, and is now being offered to the public.

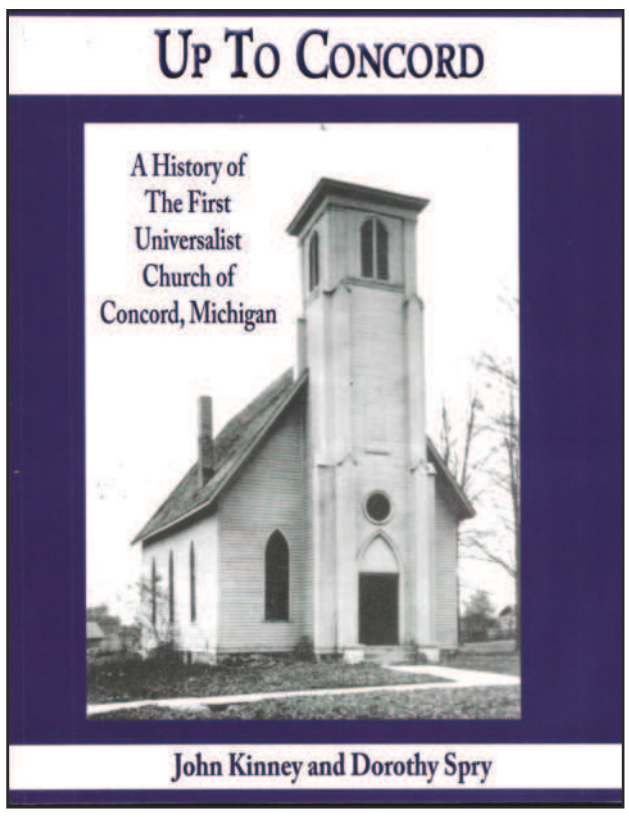
The back cover synopsis states, "During the mid-nineteenth century and into the first half of the twentieth century, Universalism was an important religious movement in the Midwest. This history traces the life of the small Universalist church and congregation of Concord, Michigan, from its founding in 1854 through many years as a vibrant and active force in the community, to its decline in the mid-twentieth century, and eventual rebirth as a historical presence today. Authors John Kinney and Dorothy Spry, beloved members of the Concord community and avid Michigan historians share the vivid account of the church and its members. This rich genealogical resource also contains photos and stories collected directly from the families described herein."

The book is organized into two parts. The first portion deals with the specific history of the Universalist Church in Concord, organizational and event dates, ministers, list of members, etc. The second portion contains biographies and genealogies of the Church's members through the years. There are many individual and family group photos in both sections. This is a "who's who" of Concord families.

Briefly, Universalism began in Concord in 1850 with the Rev. Almond Wood Mason coming to town to preach, and interest grew in the subsequent months. The Universalist Society of Concord was officially organized in 1854. In its early years people met in the homes of its members, in the school, and in meeting rooms above downtown buildings. The church building itself was erected in 1866.

The book continues with church history through the years, noting the final minister was the Rev. Richard Roth (1938-2016) who served from 1981 to 1985, at which time the church was closed. Many details are then discussed in the chapter entitled "Post-Mortem and Resurrection" about how the church sat unused for a decade (with a few exceptions), but then how it was acquired by the non-profit Hubbard Memorial Museum Foundation in 1997 and reopened as a center for various events and gatherings.

This book is 332 pages long, measures 8 ½ x 11 inches, and is 1 inch thick. It has been published in both soft-cover ($30) and hard cover ($45) editions. There is a handy name index in the back. From our Historical Notebook this week we present a photo of the cover of the book. If you had ancestors who lived in the Concord area, you'll want to acquire a copy of this. "Up to Concord" would make a great Christmas gift, or as an addition to your own personal library. Copies are available from the Hubbard Memorial Museum Foundation. For further information contact Nancy Barton at (517) 960-5763, or E-mail her at: nancy.barton@willisandjurasek.cpa.



Updates on court cases

By ELIZABETH FERSZT
Contributing Writer

Here are updates on the several significant criminal and/or murder cases still pending in Jackson County Courts system.

Defendant Joseph O'Rourke was set to appear at a Pre Trial Conference in the 4th Circuit Courtroom of Hon. James McBain on Friday Dec. 5 at 1:30 p.m. However, according to his attorney, Lucas X. Dillon, the hearing was adjourned because the "Prosecution had asked for more time to respond" to a motion that Dillon filed to include several rap-style videos that the decedent, Emarion Flowers, had posted before his death by gunshot, on May 16 at the Southridge Park Apartments in downtown Jackson. Dillon said the videos are called "5630 Emar no hook," and they have about 20 thousand views.

Defendant Antonio Green was also set for a PTC in front of 4th Circuit Court Judge Susan B Jordan, on Dec. 9 at 8:30 a.m. But according to his attorney, William Amadeo, he and the prosecution agreed to adjourn this hearing until Jan. 9, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. Green is charged with open murder in the death of Mia Sims on July 27, 2025. Amadeo stated that he was in trial in a court in another jurisdiction, and so the Jackson County case had to be adjourned.

A PTC for defendants Bryan Johnson, Jemel Milton, and Phillip Gauze, will be held on Friday, Dec. 12 at 9 a.m., in connection to the death of John Lusch (age 45) in a house in the 900 block of Orchard Place, just south of Morrell Street, on April 20.

Hon. John McBain had heard from all three defendants' attorneys on Oct. 17, who had asked for separate strategies for their clients.

For example, Nicholas Klaus, attorney for Bryan Johnson (age 21), asked for a private investigator to be assigned to the case. And indicated "there may be some dispositive motions" that he may file.

Alfred Brandt, attorney for Phillip Gauze (age 40), stated that he may file, a discovery motion for forensic downloads from cell phones, and agreed with the previous attorney as to the volume of discovery.

Jared Hopkins, attorney for Jemel Milton (age 25), stated that he did not object to filing a Motion for Joinder of the two criminal files against Milton (one for murder and one for other charges). But in the hallway after the cases were concluded, Hopkins stated that while the three defendants will likely be tried together, he does not think that there will be three separate juries.

In regard to attorneys Klaus and Brandt indicating that they may file separate dispositive motions, Hopkins said that a dispositive motion is a legal action that "if it were to be granted, the case would be dismissed."

Defendant Julian Powell (age 22), who is charged with the murder of Taesean Bartkowiak in June in Blackman Twp. was scheduled for a PTC in front of Judge Thomas Wilson in the 4th Circuit on Oct. 24. But it was adjourned until a later date, according to Powell's attorney, Andrew Kirkpatrick. According to court records, a Final Pre-Trial Hearing will be held Feb. 3, 2026, at 9a.m.

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NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement Notice is given under section 3212 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Calhoun County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM on January 8, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the terms and conditions of a certain Mortgage made by Marshall Spruce, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company, as Mortgagor, to Citizens State Bank, a Michigan banking corporation, as Mortgagee, dated April 4, 2023, and recorded on April 13, 2023, in Book 4738 at Page 76, Calhoun County Records. The beneficial interest under the lien recorded in the official records of Calhoun County was assigned from Citizens State Bank to Sabah Capital, LLC, a Michigan Limited Liability Company, by assignment recorded on October 20, 2025, in Book 4949, Page 709, Calhoun County Records. There is claimed to be due as of November 20, 2025, the sum of One Million Three Hundred Thirty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Six and 50/100 Dollars ($1,339,476.50), and no suit or proceedings at law or equity have been instituted to recover the debt secured by said Mortgage, or any part thereof. Under the power of sale contained in said Mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Calhoun County, Michigan at 9:00 AM on January 8, 2026. Said premises are located in the City of Marshall, Calhoun County, Michigan, and are described as: Parcel A: The North 64 feet of Lot 9, Block 33, Lower Village of the City of Marshall, according to the plat thereof as recorded in 3 of Plats, Page 11, Calhoun County Records. c/k/a 321 South Sycamore Street, Marshall, MI Tax ID: 13-53-000-709-00 Parcel B: The South 68 feet of Lot 9, Block 33, Lower Village of the City of Marshall, according to the plat thereof, as recorded in 3 of plats, Page 11, Calhoun County Records. c/k/a 420 West Spruce St., Marshall, MI Tax ID: 13-53-000-709-01 The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be thirty (30) days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale referred to above, the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the purchaser who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period in accordance with MCL 600.3278 or as otherwise provided by law. TO ALL PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing Mortgagee for any reason. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest, and the purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. Please be advised that any third party purchaser is responsible for preparing and recording the Sheriff's Deed. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU: ARE A DEBTOR IN AN ACTIVE BANKRUPTCY CASE; ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF A BANKRUPTCY STAY; OR, HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY AND YOU HAVE NOT REAFFIRMED THE DEBT, THIS NOTICE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY. Dated: November 20, 2025. Firm Name: Law Offices Aaron D. Cox, 23820 Eureka, Taylor, MI 48180. Firm Phone Number: (734)287-3664 November 20, 2025
(11-28)(12-19)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Calhoun County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 8, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Josh Byrd, a single man and Lindsay C. Hollenbeck, a single woman, as joint tenants
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Owner Trustee on Behalf for CSMC 2018-RPL12 Trust
Date of Mortgage: July 5, 2007
Date of Mortgage Recording: August 10, 2007
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $71,949.99
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Battle Creek, Calhoun County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 2, Block 1, Post's 2nd Addition to Battle Creek, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Liber 4 of Plats, Page 6, in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Calhoun County, Michigan.
Common street address (if any): 98 Cliff St, Battle Creek, MI 49014-4302
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: November 28, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1578644
(11-28)(12-19)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Calhoun County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, on January 22, 2026. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by Victoria English to Ruoff Mortgage Company, Inc. dated January 13, 2022 and recorded January 25, 2022 in Liber 4625 at Page 689, Calhoun County, Michigan. Said Mortgage is now held by Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment and/or merger. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $130,674.01. Said premises are located in Calhoun County, Michigan and are described as: LAND SITUATED IN THE CITY OF BATTLE CREEK, COUNTY OF CALHOUN, STATE OF MICHIGAN DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: LOT 51, CAINE'S 2ND ADDITION TO BATTLE CREEK, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 4 OF PLATS, PAGE 12, CALHOUN COUNTY RECORDS. Commonly known as: 119 Caine Street, Battle Creek, MI 49014 Tax ID No. 1500-00-066-0 Said property is commonly known as 119 Caine St, Battle Creek, MI 49014. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Please be advised that any third party purchaser is responsible for preparing and recording the Sheriff's Deed. If this is a residential Mortgage, the following shall apply: ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU: ARE A DEBTOR IN AN ACTIVE BANKRUPTCY CASE; ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF A BANKRUPTCY STAY; OR, HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY AND YOU HAVE NOT REAFFIRMED THE DEBT, THIS NOTICE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY. Dated: December 1, 2025 Attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage: Thomas E. McDonald (P39312) Brock & Scott, PLLC 5431 Oleander Drive Wilmington, NC 28403 PHONE: (844) 856-6646 File No. 25-32519
(12-05)(12-26)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in CALHOUN County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 8, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Starlett Cousino, an unmarried woman, whose address is 174 Battle Creek Avenue, Battle Creek, Michigan 49037, as original Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for American Financial Resources, LLC, being a mortgage dated March 28, 2024, and recorded on April 8, 2024 in Liber 4814 Page 0464, Calhoun County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated October 8, 2025 and recorded on October 8, 2025 in Liber 4947 Page 0271, Calhoun County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of EIGHTY-ONE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR AND 47/100 DOLLARS ($81,424.47). Said premises are situated in the City of Battle Creek, County of Calhoun, State of Michigan, and are described as: The West 22 feet of Lot No. 169 and the East 22 feet of Lot No. 170 Meacham's Addition to Battle Creek, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 40 of Deeds, on Page 1, in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Calhoun County, Michigan. Street Address: 174 Battle Creek Avenue, Battle Creek, Michigan 49037 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: December 5, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois, 60602. Telephone: (312) 541-9710 File No.: MI 25 6832
(12-05)(12-26)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - CALHOUN COUNTY

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Calhoun County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 08, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Jim R Russell, a single man Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: May 25, 2007 Recorded on June 11, 2007, Liber 3278, on Page 284, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): The Huntington National Bank Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Seventy-Three Thousand Four Hundred Eleven and 10/100 Dollars ($73,411.10) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Calhoun County, and described as: Beginning 253 feet West of the Northeast corner of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 16, Town 2 South, Range 4 West, Sheridan Township, Calhoun County, Michigan; thence West 180 feet to a point 2213.60 feet East of the Northwest corner of said Section 16; thence South 200 feet; thence East 180 feet; thence North to the place of beginning. Also, beginning 253 feet West of the Northeast corner of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 16, Town 2 South, Range 4 West, Sheridan Township, Calhoun County, Michigan; thence West 180 feet, to a point 2213.60 feet East of the Northwest corner of said Section 16, thence South 200 feet to the true place of beginning; thence South 75 feet; thence East 10 feet; thence South 125 feet; thence East 170 feet; thence North 200 feet; thence West 180 feet to the place of beginning. Commonly known as 26412 H Drive N, Albion, MI 49224 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale will be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The Huntington National Bank Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1579307
(12-05)(12-26)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - CALHOUN COUNTY

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Calhoun County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 08, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Kobe B. Scears, unmarried man Original Mortgagee: Fifth Third Bank, National Association Date of mortgage: September 18, 2024 Recorded on October 1, 2024, Liber 4856, on Page 812, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Seven and 84/100 Dollars ($126,967.84) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Calhoun County, and described as: LOT 106 OF THE PLAT OF FRANCES TERRACE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN LIBER 11 OF PLATS ON PAGE 2, IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS FOR CALHOUN COUNTY, MICHIGAN. Commonly known as 659 Stephanie St, Battle Creek, MI 49037 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1579304
(12-05)(12-26)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - CALHOUN COUNTY

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Calhoun County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 08, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Landon Kahly, single man Original Mortgagee: GVC Mortgage, Inc. Date of mortgage: December 15, 2023 Recorded on December 28, 2023, Liber 4794, on Page 0879, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-Five and 12/100 Dollars ($135,325.12) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Calhoun County, and described as: LOT 1, E.E. PRATT`S ADDITION NO. 2, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 9A OF PLATS, PAGE 37, CALHOUN COUNTY RECORDS. Commonly known as 1543 River Rd W, Battle Creek, MI 49037 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1579305
(12-05)(12-26)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Calhoun County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Donald V. Norton and Joyce M. Norton, husband and wife
Original Mortgagee: Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation, a subsidiary of Indy Mac Bank, F.S.B.
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): GITSIT Solutions, LLC, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as Separate Trustee of GV Trust 2025-1
Date of Mortgage: October 13, 2005
Date of Mortgage Recording: November 1, 2005
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $108,703.97
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Battle Creek, Calhoun County, Michigan, and described as: THE EAST 1/2 OF LOTS 38 AND ALL OF LOTS 39 AND 40 OF OAKDALE ADDITION TO THE CITY OF BATTLE CREEK, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 6 OF PLATS, ON PAGE 9, IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS FOR CALHOUN COUNTY, MICHIGAN.
Common street address (if any): 277 Burnham St W, Battle Creek, MI 49015-2133
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: December 12, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1579809
(12-12)(01-02)

RIVES TOWNSHIP

348 Main St., Rives Junction, MI 49277

Summary of Rives Township Board Meeting Minutes November 4th 2025

A regular meeting of the Rives Township Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Members present: All.

The following motions were supported and approved: The agenda for November 4th 2025 as written. To approve meeting minutes for October 14th 2025 as changed adding a dash to approve tax checking checks 4696-4698 and to include the KCI quote amount of $2616.65 in the motion to approve a Township newsletter that is to go out with 2025 Winter tax bills. To approve general fund checks 84580-84587 VOIDED check 84588, approve 84589-84598. Approve sewer checks 2262 & 2263. Approve trust and agency checks 2139 & 2140. Approve payroll checks 32391-32410. To go into agreement with Blackman Charter, Tompkins, Henrietta, Springport, and Waterloo Townships for Early Voting with the original version of agreement written by Blackman Charter Township. To enter the BS&A online payment platform contract. To approve the quote for the chart of accounts conversion. Approve up to $150.00 per board member and deputies to enroll in the MTA trainings. To bring Trustee Adams and Office Administrator Morgan to the Supervisor Meeting on November 20th at regular committee meeting pay.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m. Full minutes are available online at:https://rivestownshipmi.com

K. Adams, Clerk
Rives Township

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PETS OF THE WEEK

Cooper is a 4 year old, Brittney Spaniel mix who was surrendered due to the death of his owner. Cooper is great with other animals, he has a happy demeanor. Not only is he a great hunting dog, Cooper knows some basic commands and walks nicely on the leash. Brittany Spaniels are energetic, intelligent and affectionate dogs who are eager to please. They are highly trainable and good with families, kids and other pets. That sounds like Cooper, so come meet this sweet boy today at the JCAS. The Dog adoptions require an application. A meet and greet with your dog is mandatory. A cat room walk-through is available to test reaction. Dogs will go to approved applicants; the adoption fee is $150 medium/large dogs, $250 puppies/small dogs which includes vaccinations, microchip, and sterilization.

Krampus is a one year old brown tabby, she was surrendered by her owner that just had to many animals. She has some lighter brown markings on her face with tiger stripes. All the new sights and sounds at the shelter are worrisome to Krampus, but she will warm up to new people particularly those with treats. She gets along well with the other cats were she is housed and has a best buddy who she curls up to regularly. Krampus would love to cuddle with you on cold winter days. Come and meet this girl with greenish gold eyes, she is available today!

Cat adoption fees are $60 for one cat, $80 for two, which will include applicable tests, vaccines and spay/neutering.

The Shelter is located at 3370 Spring Arbor Road, in Jackson. Visiting the shelter is always best, but other resources include: Online applications: https://www.co.jackson.mi.us/DocumentCenter/View/803, fax to: 517-780-4750 or email to: animalshelter@mijackson.org.

For more information visit mijackson.org/579/Animal-Shelter. Current Shelter Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m to 4 p.m.

Star lives up to her name-she's a bright, cheerful burst of puppy energy! At just 2 months old, this brown and white Jack Russell Terrier mix loves to bounce, play, and greet everyone she meets with her tail wagging. She is affectionate, spirited, and guaranteed to bring sunshine to any home.

Star enjoys exploring, wrestling with her siblings, and learning new things every day. She's looking for a family excited to help her continue growing, training, and discovering the world with patience and love. She's as sweet as she is energetic and will make a wonderful companion.

Star has been spayed, microchipped, and is current on all vaccinations. Her adoption fee is $460. She can't wait to meet her forever family!

Hi, I'm Stella! I'm a 5 year old female domestic shorthair. I am very chatty and love to talk to my friends! I also really love gentle pets. I've been spayed made up to date on all necessary vaccines, microchipped, and tested negative for FeLV/FIV. I have an adoption fee of $60.

If interested in Star or Stella, please call or visit Cascades Humane Society, 1515 Carmen Drive in Jackson. They prefer appointments, but walk-ins are welcome.

Please call CHS at 517-787-7387, Tuesday through Saturday, from noon-to 6 p.m. (last adoption at 5:30 p.m.) to make an appointment. If you need a carrier, they have cardboard ones available for purchase. Applications for adoption are also available at www.chspets.org

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Miscellaneous Household

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Auctions

Bidding is open for the Man-Cave Extravaganza Online Auction! Find neon/metal signs, bar displays, Detroit sports items, electric bike, shot glasses, cups, steins, rock glasses, cocktail shakers, more! Visit BidItMi.com. (313-600-5451).

Multiple great online auctions featuring snow blowers, tools, shop tools, Christmas items, Fenton/collector glassware, coins, currency, toys, much more! View all items and bid now at Bid.SherwoodAuctionServiceLLC.com. Questions? Call Joe, 1-800-835-0495.

Winter Sportsman Auction. Bidding open. 250+ fine firearms, vintage sporting, antique & modern ammunition, militaria, tools. This is a Great sale! Shipping available. Bid anywhere anytime @JohnPeckAuctions.com. Offices Gladwin & Charlotte. Selling items like this? Call John Peck 989-345-4866.

Visit NarhiAuctions.com now for our January Collectables Online Auction! Featuring vintage firearms, tools, toys, western prints, figurines, tins, ashtrays, glassware, bottles, porcelain, Barber's Pole, much more! Need an auction? Call 1-800-266-6474.

Collectibles & Antiques

MICHIGAN AVE ANTIQUES: Buying and selling antiques, collectibles, gold and silver. Contact Darin, 116 E. Michigan Ave, Parma, 517-414-3759

Wanted Miscellaneous

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Miscellaneous

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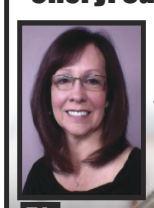
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Bowling

Thorne rolls 500 series for Napoleon

By JEFF STEERS
Contributing Writer

Peyton Thorne of Napoleon High School jumped out of the gate quickly in high school bowling.

Thorne rolled a 501 two-game series for Napoleon to start the season.

Here are scores from local bowling teams.

BOYS BOWLING

East Jackson 27, Manchester 3: The Trojans earned a win at Chelsea Lanes. Dominic Hemry helped the Trojans win game one with a key throw in the 10th frame and Elaina Lounsbery and Bella Grove contributed to the win.

Vandercook Lake 23, Addison 7: Steven Fair finished with a high game of 207 for VCL.

Napoleon 23, Michigan Center 7: Peyton Thorne rolled a 501 series to lead Napoleon. Aaden Burdge finished with a 196 for the Cardinals.

Addison 26, Columbia Central 4: David Bielby, Zach Schultz, and Trevor Bird recorded wins for CCHS.

Jonesville 24, Vandercook Lake 6: Bruer Geiski rolled a 428 series for Vandercook Lake.

Leslie 21, Hanover-Horton 9: The Comets won one Baker game but struggled in tough conditions at Mason.

Columbia Central 21, East Jackson 9: Zack Schultz rolled a 354 series and David Bielby added a 340 series for CCHS. Bella Grove – bowling on the boys' squad – rolled a 148 game for EJHS.

Vandercook Lake 22, Hanover-Horton 8: Christian Lee led VCL with a 426 series.

GIRLS BOWLING

Vandercook Lake 28, Addison 2: Carrin Sims finished with a personal-best game of 124 for the Jayhawks.

Michigan Center 21, Napoleon 9: Jada Gallagher rolled a 219 game for Napoleon. Abby Smith rolled a 204 for the Cardinals.

Addison 22, Columbia Central 8: Columbia Central won one of the Baker games and four points in the loss.

Jonesville 30, Vandercook Lake 0: Abbey Hunt finished with a 255 series for the Jayhawks.

Hanover-Horton 30, Leslie 0: Charlie Warden and Liz Curry were the top bowlers for the Comets.

Photo by Jeff Steers

Alexis Henry of Columbia Central High School rolls her bowling ball during a home match Tuesday against East Jackson.

East Jackson 25, Columbia Central 5: Alexis Henry finished with a 366 series for CCHS. Emma Lee Grove rolled a 146 game for East Jackson.

Hanover-Horton 25, Vandercook Lake 5: Abbey Hunt rolled a 277 series for the Jayhawks.

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Boys Basketball

East Jackson, Vandercook battle at Little Ceasars Arena

Photos by Jeff Steers

East Jackson High School earned a 44-33 win over Vandercook Lake at Little Caesars Arena last weekend.

By JEFF STEERS
Contributing Writer

Basketball players from Vandercook Lake and East Jackson high schools had the chance of a lifetime last weekend. The two team played a varsity contest at Little Caesars Arena – home of the Detroit Pistons.

Court of Dreams Powered by GameAbove hosts two games at each Pistons home game at Little Caesars Arena — nearly 80 games per season.

East Jackson won 44-33 as parents, students, and basketball fans looked on.

Here are boys basketball results from last week – the opening week of the sport for numerous teams.

Vandercook Lake 57, Addison 50: The Jayhawks trailed 8-0 to begin the game but scored 22 points in the second quarter to take a 30-21 lead. Brian Atkins led VCL with 15 points, Carter Stiles tallied 13 points, and Zane Crum and Leshawn Landrum each finished with eight points.

"Hunter Kurzynowski and Justin Barnes were both work horses tonight. We asked those two kids to play some big minutes for us tonight and they did just that," VCL Coach Cory Ray said. Quincy Smith finished with 21 points for Addison.

Jackson Christian 44, Will Carleton 43: The Royals won on the road as Jayden Schnitkey scored 12 points and created five steals and Daniel Loew added 11 points and 10 rebounds.

East Jackson 44, Vandercook 33: K.J. Olivier of East Jackson scored 16 of his game-high 21 points in the first half – including a pair of dunks at Little Caesar's Arena in Detroit. East Jackson earned its first win of the season with the road win. E'John Dougherty tallied 10 points for the Trojans. Vandercook Lake (1-2) was led by Carter Stiles with nine points.

Leslie 64, Grass Lake 27: Connor Sherwood led Grass Lake (0-2) with seven points in the Cascades Conference contest.

Columbia Central 53, Hanover-Horton 34: Nolan Schiel led all scorers with 26 points and David Munro added 12 points for CCHS. Jakob Weir finished with 13 points for Hanover-Horton.

Manchester 61, Napoleon 55: The Pirates lost in Cascades Conference action Friday night.

Concord 67, St. Philip 57: Jett Smith led Concord with 29 points and Connor Stevens added 18 points and 20 rebounds.

Michigan Center 75, East Jackson 26: The Cardinals are 2-0 on the season and averaging nearly 68 points per game. East Jackson falls to 0-2 on the season. Jayden Watson scored 18 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for Michigan Center. Tre Collins added 17 points and Travis Collins tallied 16 points for MCHS..

Lumen Christi 65, Gabriel Richard 56: The Titans opened the season with a win at home Friday. Ashton Callan led LCCHS with 35 points and 17 rebounds and Jonathan Morgan tallied 23 points in the win.

Jackson 52, Skyline 45: The Vikings improved to 2-0 on the season with a road win Friday night. Tre Pierce and Jaiden Ramirez both finished with 11 points, Jaydon Ross scored 10 points, and Damar Hobbs and Nasir LaGrande added eight points apiece for the Vikings.

Northwest 58, DeWitt 50: The Mounties are 2-0 on the season following a win at home against DeWitt.

Marshall 68, Springport 45: Marshall pulled away in the second half after leading 26-21. The Redhawks enjoyed balanced scoring as Lee Hall and Matthew Waito both finished with 14 points and Lincoln Fuller added 13 points and five steals. Clark Erwin tallied eight points and five rebounds for Marshall. Derek Miller led Springport with 18 points. Tucker Wiginton added nine points and 10 rebounds and Dallas Higelmire finished with nine points for SHS (1-1).

Dexter 42, Western 33: The Panthers fell on the road in non-conference action. Western is 0-2 on the season.

Jonesville 73, Homer 69: Homer trailed by 13 points heading into the final quarter but pulled within three points. Brock Butler finished with 17 points, Wyatt Winchell scored 16 points, Preston Mann tallied 13 points, and Manning Mulnix finished with 10 points for Homer.

Will Carleton 64, Tekonsha 33: Tekonsha High School fell to 0-2 on the season with the loss.

Camden-Frontier 43, Jackson Christian 32: Kyler Coons finished with 10 points and Jayden Schnitkey added nine points for the Royals.

Stockbridge 69, Vandercook Lake 26: The Jayhawks fell to 1-3 with the road loss Monday.

Calhoun Christian 58, Tekonsha 36: The Indians lost at home in non-conference action.

Quincy at Concord 58, Quincy 47: Concord improves to 4-0 early in the season with the victory. Jett Smith scored 19 points and Connor Stevens added 12 points for Concord (4-0).

Climax-Scotts 51, Jackson Christian 16: The Royals lost on the road in conference action. Caleb Lanham finished with eight points for JCHS.

Adrian 59, Northwest 56: The Mounties lost on the road in non-conference action Tuesday.

Springport 58, Union City 41: The Spartans got back on the winning track with a win Tuesday. Dallas Higelmire was the man with a plan tonight scoring 32 points and pulling down eight rebounds. Tucker Wiginton also tallied 13 points for SHS.

Chelsea 46, Western 36: The Panthers lost at home Tuesday in a non-conference matchup.

Marshall Academy 76, Calhoun Christian 56: Marshall Academy improved to 2-0 on the season with the win.

Jackson): Jackson High School player Demarquinn Ragland looks for a teammate during opening night of boys basketball.

Gymnastics

By JEFF STEERS
Contributing Writer

Jackson at Holt Invitational: Jackson Area Gymnastics finished fifth out of 14 teams with a score of 131.05. Teddie Garrish of Northwest finished fourth on the vault (8.6), Julia Trapp of Northwest was 10th on the bars (8.2), and Madi Lindeman of Napoleon was ninth on the beam (8.575) for JAG.

Hockey

By JEFF STEERS
Contributing Writer

Lumen Christi 5, Eastside 5: The Titans earned its first tied of the season on the road. Maden Brady and Jack Fitzpatrick each scored a goal and Luke Dumont scored a hat trick for LCCHS.

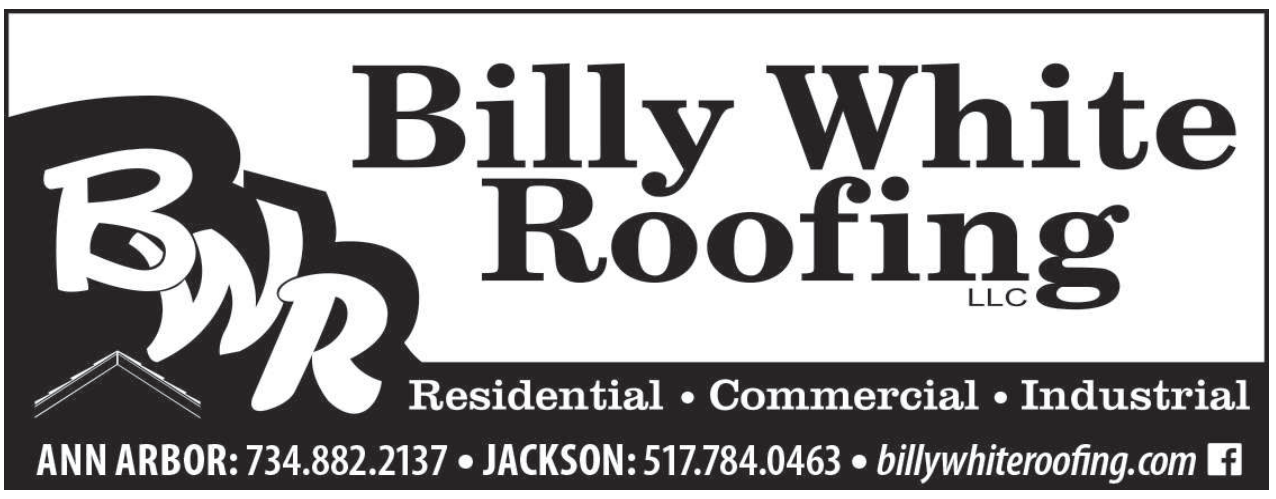
Jackson United 8, Ann Arbor Huron 1: Jackson United scored three times in the first and second periods. Tyler Dwyer scored a hat trick for Jackson United in the home win. Bentley Paquin, Isaiah Norwood, Brennan Forward, Peyton Paquin, and Brenna Koszegi also scored one goal apiece for Jackson. Dylan Foster earned the win in goal for JU.

Powers Catholic 9, Lumen Christi 1: Luke Dumont scored the only goal for the Titans – who were outshot 45-10 in the contest.

Boys Swimming

By JEFF STEERS
Contributing Writer

Cereal City Relays: Jackson finished 10th and Marshall 14th at the 78th annual event over the weekend. The Vikings finished fifth in the 200-yard freestyle relay and Marshall was seventh in the 500-yard freestyle. Jackson swam 2:14.47 in the relay with a team of Logan Koszegi, Colt Curry, Wilson Sheldon, and Tyler Gilbert.



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Girls Basketball

Girls basketball starts for most teams

By JEFF STEERS
Contributing Writer

Girls basketball kicked off in the area for numerous teams earlier in the week.

Here are results from the first two days of action for local teams.

Springport 55, Vandercook Lake 10: The Spartans took a 14-7 lead in the first quarter and then turned it on. Autumn Minix scored all six of her points in the first quarter for VCL. The varsity win was the first for SHS coach Darren Hampton – a Napoleon graduate.

Morenci 58, Concord 25: Bradie Lehman led the way for Concord with 15 points.

Lansing Christian 53, Jackson Christian 28: The Royals fell on the road in non-conference action Monday. Rennie Huff scored 13 points and Braelyn Rubley grabbed nine rebounds for Jackson Christian.

Marshall 46, Williamston 35: Brielle Kelly scored 15 points and Ally Koenig added 10 points for the Redhawks. Grace Shubert and Jordyn St. John added seven points apiece for Marshall.

Grass Lake 45, Gabriel Richard 40: The Warriors pull out a win in non-conference action.

Hillsdale 35, Napoleon 23: The Pirates lost at home in a low-scoring contest.

Litchfield 61, Vandercook Lake 35: Autumn Minix finished with 14 points and Ava Adams and Katie Donaldson finished with nine points.

Maple Valley 45, East Jackson 31: Kolee Sadjak led East Jackson with 20 points and nine rebounds.

Hanover-Horton 46, Springport 26: Molly Soper finished with 12 points and Maggie Soper added 10 points and eight rebounds for Hanover-Horton (1-0). Reese Siefert scored seven points to lead Springport (1-1).

Jackson 38, Lansing Eastern 32: The Vikings opened the 2025-2026 season with a road win.

Lumen Christi 50, Michigan Center 28: The Titans opened with a non-conference win at home Tuesday. LCCHS led 18-11 at halftime but opened up a 15-point lead heading into the fourth quarter.

Photos by Jeff Steers

Hattie Gray (3) of Springport High School passes the basketball to Sydney Humphrey during a game at Vandercook Lake.

East Jackson High School basketball player Khloee Gettings (1) attempts to drive past a Maple Valley opponent during a home game Tuesday.

Northwest 51, Stockbridge 33: The Mounties open the season with a home win against Stockbridge. Northwest led 30-8 at halftime in the contest. Shannon Christner scored 14 points and pulled down 11 rebounds for NWHS. Audra Jewell also scored 12 points for the Mounties in the win.

West Catholic 48, Western 33: The Panthers lost to the state finalists from last March on the road Tuesday.

Homer 53, Quincy 45: Balanced scoring led the Trojans attack as Ellerie Kissinger finished with 12 points and Ava Fetterman and Kami Williams both finished with 10 points.

Competitive Cheer

Photo by Jeff Steers

Members of the Hanover-Horton High School competitive cheer team – also known as Mistletoe – won their own invitational Monday at HHHS.

By JEFF STEERS
Contributing Writer

Hanover-Horton Invitational: Hanover-Horton won the invitational at home with 689.

Columbia Central, MC at Leslie Invitational: Michigan Center finished first (657) and Columbia Central second (638) in the Division 3 competition at Leslie.

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Please be advised that as per Section 105 of PA300 and 105 C of PA119 of 1999 (School Aid Act), the Marshall Public Schools (MPS), by Board action on March 10, 2025, determined that MPS will be a "School of Choice" district for the first and second semesters of the 2025-2026 school year.

Wrestling
Northwest finishes second at JAWS

By JEFF STEERS
Contributing Writer

Northwest High School finished second at the annual Jackson Area Wrestling Showdown at the Middle School at Parkside last weekend. The Mounties lost to Mason in the 16-team tournament to start the invitational season. Northwest was 4-1 on the day.

Here are results from numerous tri, quad, and invitational meets to start the wrestling season.

BOYS **WRESTLING**

Napoleon at Blissfield Invitational: Napoleon High School finished third (156). Izayah Scott of Napoleon finished third at 126 pounds; Carson Warner of Napoleon was second and teammate Zavior Skog was third at 175 pounds; Brady Warner was first and Rylan Lovett second for Napoleon at 215 pounds; and Corey Sutton and Lucas Rowley of Napoleon placed third and fourth respectively at 285 pounds.

JAWS at Parkside: Mason High School won the 40th annual Jackson Area Wrestling Showdown 16-team tournament at the Middle School at Parkside Saturday. The Bulldogs defeated Northwest 58-24 in the final and Bronson defeated Marshall 42-39 in the third-place matchup. Northwest was 4-1 on the day, Western, Columbia Central, and Homer were all 3-2, Lumen Christi, and Jackson (Orange) were 2-3 on the day, Jackson (Black) was 1-4, and Jackson (White) was 0-5. Going 4-1 for Grass Lake were Aiden Johnson, Maxx Latshaw, and Justin Rought. Wrestlers going 5-0 for GLHS were Brandon Rohde, Grady Kromrei, and Aiden Durham.

Concord Invitational with Hanover-Horton: Olivet won the event with 176.5 points, Hanover-Horton was third (114.5), Springport was eighth (49) with a split squad, and Concord placed 11th (24) in the 12-team event. Joshua Jordan of Springport was first at 106 pounds; teammate Silas Harris was fourth at 113 pounds; A.J. Lusby of Hanover-Horton as second and Zion Eddington of Concord fourth at 120 pounds; Ethan Stahl of Springport finished third at 126 pounds; A.J. Fielder of Hanover-Horton was his fourth consecutive Grover Invitational title at 138 pounds; J.J. Davis of Concord finished fourth at 144 pounds; Levi Bradley of Hanover-Horton placed fourth at 157 pounds; Trevor Gilchrist of Springport was third and teammate Brogon Stafford was fourth at 175 pounds; Nick Thomas of Hanover-Horton defeated teammate Ron Jones in the 190 pound championship match; Austyn Hocter of Hanover-Horton was second at 215 pounds; and Reed Matthews of Hanover-Horton was third at 285 pounds.

East Jackson Invitational: Michigan Center finished fourth and a split Northwest squad was sixth at the third annual Brandon Walker Invitational at EJHS. The Spartans finished 11th and da Vinci 12th at the invitational. Braylan Bristow of Michigan Center finished fourth at 106 pounds; Ashton Bristow of Michigan Center won the title at 132 pounds; Dontez Eubanks of Northwest took first place at 138 pounds; Aiden Sawyer of Northwest took second place at 144; Tobin Sheley won first place at 150 pounds; teammate Mark Jayne was second at 157 pounds; Ezra Finch of East Jackson was second at Rayvaun Numley of Michigan Center fourth at 165B; Bryce Beadenkopf of Michigan Center won the title at 175 pounds; Davion King took the title at 190 pounds for Michigan Center; and Cassius Weatherwax of Michigan Center took second place at 215 pounds.

Springport at Don Johnson Invitational: The Spartans finished second at the invitational with 222.5 points at Lansing Eastern. Blake Freeman was third for the Spartans at 106 pounds; teammate Mason Thurber was second at 113 pounds; Shamus O'Hearon was also second for Springport at 120 pounds; Brody Birchfield was third at 126 pounds; Jacob Potter placed third at 138 pounds; Wyatt Burns won the title for SHS at 144 pounds; Andon Zienert also took first for SHS at 150 pounds; Jacob Kubiak of Springport was fourth at 157 pounds; Tanner Severns was runner up at 165 pounds; Kaden Sizemore was also second for the Spartans at 175 pounds; and Brayden Whittaker was sixth at 190 pounds for Springport.

GIRLS WRESTLING

East Jackson Invitational: Miranda Goings of Columbia Central finished fourth in the 115 pound weight class. Teammate Olivia Goodwin was also fourth in the 120/125B class. Jordyan Metcalf of Concord placed fourth at 155 pounds. Jackson had the two top finishers on the night as Kaylee Bonner was second at 235 and teammate Aiyanna Walker was third at 190. The invitational drew hundreds of female wrestlers from all over Michigan Friday night.

Photo by Jeff Steers

Audrey Genix, bottom, of East Jackson High School battles to get away from her opponent during the East Jackson Girls Wrestling Invitational last week at EJHS.

Concord Township discusses cemetery; hears police news

By KEN WYATT
Contributing Writer

Concord Township discussed several items at their Monday night board meeting, beginning with some cemetery Issues. The board made some headway on the selection of a sexton for Maple Grove Cemetery. A choice was not made at this week's monthly meeting, but there are three candidates. They are Tyler Butters, Todd Sprague and Tony Brooks Jr.

Concord Township is responsible for management and care of the cemetery, which had become a bit of a headache. Clerk Terri Butts has been filling the role, but she has served notice to the board she no longer wants to do it. It is not a statutory obligation for any particular official, but the township is responsible for the property.

In fact, the issue prompted a review of who does what in terms of the cemetery. The sexton is responsible for care of the cemetery grounds. The supervisor oversees township property. And someone else must handle sales of plots and related work.

At Monday's board meeting, a motion was made to hire the deputy clerk for at least eight hours a month at the rate of $18 per hour to handle those cemetery-related sales.

In discussing the various roles, Supervisor David Saenz said that he, as supervisor, will be handling any cemetery-related complaints. The intent is to relieve the deputy clerk of handling those kinds of issues.

As for the choice of a sexton, the three men who have expressed interest in the job will be submitting bids so that the position can be filled by March 1.

Because two board members were absent due to sickness, the three-member quorum opted to table other cemetery-related issues. In one, Tyler Butters, who has been contracting to maintain cemetery grounds, recommends removal of five trees per year from the grounds. Also, the supervisor is recommending that burial fees be raised to $1,000 for residents of the township and $2,000 for non-residents.

Report. Deputy Larry Jacobson's November report included this item from Nov. 16: "Multiple units – including the state police and DNR – responded to a home on Mann Road where a township resident decreed he no longer liked deer hunting season. He then began driving around farm fields on a 4-wheeler and playing loud music to disrupt things. When informed he could NOT do this, he became irate, stating his military service gave him the right to override the law. He was advised his service did NOT give him that right."

And then there was this from Nov. 22: "After a shooting in Concord, NC – a Florida man called the Concord MICHIGAN Village Office, ranting about 'They're shooting white people' and the dangers of going to large gatherings. The FBI was notified as this particular subject had done this approximately 50 times to various Concords around the country."

Finally, on Nov. 25, "Units responded to the area of Erie Road and Finley Road for a pickup truck that had left the roadway, rolled several times and landed on the railroad tracks. RR traffic was suspended until it was removed. The investigation is ongoing as the operator of the vehicle fled the scene."

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Pulaski discusses fire department issues

By KEN WYATT
Contributing Writer

Pulaski Township's monthly meeting was dominated by several fire department issues:

-The department's furnace failed in cold weather, which Able Heating & Cooling repaired at a cost of $985.

-Two firefighter helmets have aged out, and the cost of replacing them was $850.

-Fire Chief Ryan Betz expressed interest in attending a fire investigation class being sponsored by the Michigan State Police. The board approved $1,000 for his participation in that educational event, plus the furnace repair and helmet replaces.

-Finally, there's that nagging problem of the department's 1993 International fire truck. Ten months ago, the township put it up for sale for a minimum bid of $5,000. Nothing. No interest. Too costly to repair. Supervisor Chuck Todd checked to find out what its value for scrap might be. The answer: $2,500. So on a motion by Todd, the board will ask for sealed bids with a minimum of $3,100. The bids must be delivered by Jan. 9 and will be opened at the board meeting of Jan. 12. Why $3,100 and not $3,000? Because an offer had just been received to buy the truck for $3,000.

Photo by Ken Wyatt

After months of trying to sell this 1993 International fire truck, the township is reduced to dropping the minimum bid to $3,100 - a little more than it could sell it for scrap.

In other issues:

Tables. Todd would like to replace some aging brown tables with lighter white tables for those using the township hall for dinners and other gatherings. The board approved spending up to $300 for two eight-foot tables and two six-foot tables.

Marijuana. Supervisor Todd told the board that the township has three adult-use licenses available for marijuana growers. He favors revising the ordinance so that those licenses might be available only to existing growers. The intent of the change would be to reduce outdoor grow operations, which is where most odor issues originate. There are legal issues to be considered, so the change – if made – will only be done with the attorney's counsel.

Schedule. Finally, the board approved continuing the township board's meeting schedule next year as it has been – board meetings the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Smiles and connections light up 2025 Albion Aglow Parade

Despite the cold, people lined up to watch the parade in Albion.

Albion resident Sophia Whitfield tells Santa her wishes at Kids "N" Stuff Children's Museum after the Albion Aglow parade last Friday.

The theme of Albion Aglow was an invitation to The Northpole. Freeway Church offered up their interpretation for the parade.

Photos by Sylvia Benavidez

New Beginnings Worship Center presented a Nativity scene for Albion Aglow 2025 last Friday.

Celebrating the holidays, the gay pride float held special meaning for one Albion resident Frankie Riemenschneider, his sister was featured on it.

By SYLVIA BENAVIDEZ
Contributing Writer

Bundled up parade watchers braved 20 degrees F, while watching the children from Harrington Elementary School lead of this year's Albion Aglow parade themed The North Pole. The bright lights of the floats revealed plenty of smiles, hugs and waves while kids giggled and laughed as they dove for the candy. Also, toward the beginning of the parade with the Albion College band and cheer team was this year's sponsor of the Albion Aglow parade Ford BlueOval Battery Park. They decorated one of their pick-up trucks with festive blue and white lights with their Ford logo mounted in the back festooned between large lit candy canes. Other floats included Consumers Energy's picturesque scene of what Santa's house might look like.

There were all kinds of floats one representing gay pride, others celebrating their political parties. Other entries focused on the spiritual meaning of the season. One of the church floats, decorated with beautiful archways and lit evergreens had a sign that said, "Freeway Church is Alive." Another created by the New Beginnings Worship Center had a large cross with lights on one side of their float and a live nativity scene on the other. There were city trucks, emergency vehicles, and trucks representing businesses such as Castor Concepts. There were plenty of people walking the parade route, too, including Al the Albion Squirrel, Albion College students and faculty, among others.

The consistent theme brought up by parade goers was that Albion Aglow helped them make memories, share greetings and hugs with friends and family in Albion. Halie Woods, Marshall, shared, "Our kids go to Little Lambs of Jesus in Albion, and we have family that live in the Albion community. I love seeing all the members of the community coming out, all the businesses and the workers in Albion to celebrate Christmas." One of those family members, Albion Resident Christina Weicht, has been coming to Albion's Christmas parades for over 30 years and shared why she keeps coming back. "I think spending time with family and enjoying all that Albion has to offer."

Daniel Avis came from Battle Creek to support his wife who is involved with Ride Calhoun which was a parade entry. He was waiting to see Santa Claus at Kids 'N" Stuff Museum and shared some of the memories he was making with his family that evening. "It was fantastic. We really liked the fire trucks."

Avis said, "The Christmas memories I have always had is getting together with family and having a great time."

In addition to the Kids 'N' Stuff, other businesses such as Yellowbird Chocolate Shop remained open to provide a warm place for parade watchers.

Albion resident Frankie Riemenschneider explained his reason favorite part of the parade is meeting up with friends, and this year seeing his family member on a float. "I thought it was absolutely amazing, the decorations in downtown Albion are beautiful. The lighting is wonderful. It was a heartfelt experience to come downtown and see people and see the parades coming back," he said. His favorite float was the one with his sister, Slena Gonzlex, was on, the gay pride float. Then he said, "I ran down to the Yellowbird Chocolate Shop because I never get to see her when she is open."

Members of the Albion College Cheer team were in front of the Yellowbird Chocolate Shop. One student captured the purpose of a parade for both watchers and participants. "One thing we have focused on is community service. Actually, I am a community service rep. so we've been focusing on giving back to our community because we are also receiving so much support and love from them," said "Sarynete Holmes, Chicago, a third year Albion College student.

All the connections, being made, however brief, are at the heart of the Albion Aglow parade. One could witness the hugs, cheers, laugher, conversation, and joy on the floats and up and down Superior Street.

Police arrest man with gun, gutted deer in back of U-Haul truck

On Dec 6, 2025, at 6:55 p.m., Albion Department of Public Safety offiers received an aggravated assault complaint involving a firearm that reportedly took place outside the Albion 1 Stop Market located at 217 Austin Ave. in Albion.

Based on information ADPS received, a suspect was identified and located inside a U-Haul truck at the Marriott Hotel parking lot at 200 S. Superior St. in Albion.

Officers were able to detain a 24-year-old man from Albion without incident. A firearm and loaded magazine were located along with a dead deer that had been gutted in the back of the U-Haul truck.

The man was lodged at the Calhoun County Jail on one count of Carrying a Concealed Weapon, one count of Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, one count of Felony Firearm and one unrelated Misdemeanor warrant.

The deer was turned over to a DNR Conservation Officer for further investigation.

Jackson police to give away 500 hams

According to a press release from Chief Christopher A. Simpson, Jackson Police officers, and a local company are helping Jackson families get a ham on the table this holiday season. The Jackson Police Department's Ham Drive-Thru event is happening Wednesday, Dec. 17, from 10 a.m. to noon at the American 1 Convention Center in the Jackson County Fairgrounds.

Garcia Laboratory, the Jackson-based medical laboratory company is working with the police department to distribute them to families in need. No prior sign-up is necessary and the hams are free.

Participants are asked to stay in their vehicles, entering the fairgrounds using the N. Blackstone Street entrance and driving through the parking lot to the Ham Drive-Thru site. Jackson officers will be there to direct traffic and distribute the hams to local families.

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